



# NEWS RELEASE

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## **SCOT BLEHM HEADS UP USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT AS STATE DIRECTOR FOR NEBRASKA**

**Lincoln, Neb., May 9, 2005**—Nebraska State Director Scot Blehm will lead USDA Rural Development in their efforts to promote the growth and development of sustainable rural communities statewide through technical and financial assistance.

“I am pleased to be a part of the USDA Rural Development team,” stated State Director Scot Blehm, USDA Rural Development. “I look forward to working with the staff, partners, and those our programs serve to help build for a stronger rural Nebraska.”

Blehm served as the district office manager for U.S. Representative Tom Osborne of the 3<sup>rd</sup> District of Nebraska since April of 2002. During this time, he directed Congressman Osborne’s rural initiatives effort by serving as the team leader in creating a rural economic development handbook and resource guide and hosted numerous conferences related to rural development issues.

Blehm graduated from Colorado State University with both Bachelor of Science and Master of Science degrees and has authored numerous science related publications and patents during his career.

Blehm, from Mitchell, Neb., remains active in his family farm and livestock operation and is a member of the Nebraska Ag Relations Council, Nebraska Rural Renaissance and an ex-officio member of the Nebraska Rural Development Commission. He received the Outstanding Young Men of America award in 1992.

USDA Rural Development assists rural Nebraskans via grants, loans and loan guarantees for: Housing programs to purchase, renovate, and construct homes and apartments as well as distribution of rental assistance; Community and Utility programs via water, waste, community facilities, electric and telecommunications projects; and Business programs by providing for planning and assistance to businesses and cooperatives as well as guaranteed loans for new and expanding businesses.

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